FACTS CONCERNING SEGREGATION AND INTEGRATION

Issued by the Arlington, Virginia, public schools

November, 1954

Following the Supreme Court decision last May concerning segregation in public schools of the United States, the Arlington School Board on June 12 appointed a Committee to Study Problems of Integration in the schools of the county.

In Arlington, as in all other parts of Virginia, segregation of the races is not only traditional, but it is required by state law and the State Constitution. In light of this situation, the Integration Committee of 30 citizens was named to give the School Board help and counsel in planning for the future.

The Integration Committee has held two meetings. One, on June 23rd, was for purposes of organization. At the second meeting, October 18th, the members of the Integration Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the School Board that the community be kept informed as to every move in the adjustment between segregated schools and integrated schools.

The committee asked that a "factual reporting sheet" be published for community distribution, setting forth briefly all important developments relating to the matter of integration on local, state and national levels.

This is the first issue of the factual reporting sheet. Pending further action by the Supreme Court and the State of Virginia, the Arlington School Board urges citizens to study the facts. Until further decisions are made by federal and state authorities, statements involving proposed action are likely to make the final solution more difficult.

Signed: T. Edward Rutter, Superintendent of Schools
Elizabeth P. Campbell, Chairman, School Board
Barnard Joy — E. R. Draheim
Warren Cox — L. Clark Keating

SUPREME COURT DECISION

The United States Supreme Court on May 17, 1954 ruled that public school segregation of white and colored pupils is unconstitutional. The ruling read in part:

> "Segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a detrimental effect upon the colored children. The impact is greater when it has the sanction of the law; for the policy of separating the races is usually interpreted as denoting the inferiority of the Negro group. A

sense of inferiority affects the motivation of a child to learn. Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of Negro children and to deprive them of some of the benefits they would receive in a racially integrated school system.

. . . . . .

"We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment."

The Supreme Court then set for argument, at its 1954 fall term, several questions concerning public school integration, among which is the following:

"Might the Court exercise its powers for a gradual adjustment from segregated to nonsegregated schools?"

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White and Negro School Enrollment in Arlington - September 30, 1954

Arlington has five public schools for Negro students with a total enrollment this year of 1165 pupils. White public school enrollment totals 19,350 in 39 different school buildings. Negro enrollment is slightly less than 6% of the total.

The white and colored enrollment in the county is distributed by age groups as follows:

	Negro	White
Elementary (Grades 1 through 6)	766	11,576
Junior high (Grades 7 through 9)	277	4,393
Senior high (Grades 10 through 12)	122	3,107

The colored school buildings in Arlington, with their locations and the number of pupils enrolled in each are as follows:

1. Hoffman-Boston junior-senior high school, 1415 South Queen Street. This building houses all negro junior and senior high school students in Arlington public schools, 399 in all. (116 in seventh grade, 90 in eighth, 71 in ninth, 59 in tenth, 30 in eleventh, and 33 in twelfth.)

2. Drew elementary school, 25th and South Lincoln Streets, 296 pupils.
3. Hoffman-Boston elementary school, 1520 South 14th Street, 151 pupils.
4. Kemper elementary school, 2035 South Lincoln Street, 123 pupils.
5. Langston elementary school, 4854 Lee Highway, 196 pupils.

The Drew-Kemper schools are administered as one elementary unit.

White and Negro Teachers

The number of white and colored classroom teachers and librarians in the Arlington public schools is as follows:

	Negro	White
Classroom teachers	50	776
Librarians	2	29

Teachers and librarians in Arlington's white and colored schools must meet identical requirements as to training and state certification.

All employees in the Arlington schools are paid on the same salary scale. A beginning teacher in the Arlington schools, holding a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university but without experience in a regular teaching position, is now paid $3300 a year. Annual increases are given to a maximum of $5,000 for teachers with bachelor's degrees.

A teacher with a master's degree is paid $3600 as a beginning salary and may advance to $5500.

Arlington has two Negro school principals and one Negro instructional supervisor.

Children in all Arlington public schools receive regular instruction from specially trained helping teachers in the fields of music, art, physical education and speech.

Decision by State Attorney General

Ten days after the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation, Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., of Virginia, rendered the opinion that the provision of the Virginia Constitution and that in the state school law providing for segregated public schools (as quoted below) are still in force.

The Supreme Court decision of May 17th included an announcement that the high court would hold a later hearing (now set for December 6th) to determine how integration should be put into effect.

The ruling by Attorney General Almond referred to the announcement by the Supreme Court that it would hold a later hearing. Mr. Almond's ruling read:

"Pending a final adjudication, it is my opinion that Section 140 of the Constitution of Virginia, and the statute enacted pursuant thereto, remain intact and unimpaired, imbued with full legal validity and efficacy."

Ruling by State Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Virginia on May 27th directed all city and county school superintendents to proceed with plans for the 1954-55 school year on the same basis of segregation as that which was previously in effect.

Virginia Law

Arlington operates its public schools under the authority of the Virginia State Board of Education, as regulated by the State Constitution and the Code of Virginia.

The Constitution of Virginia provides in Article IX:

"Free schools to be maintained--The General Assembly shall establish and maintain an efficient system of public free schools throughout the State. Section 129. (The public school system was established in 1870, as required by the new Constitution adopted the year before.)

"Compulsory education--The General Assembly may, in its discretion, provide for the compulsory education of children of school age." Section 138. (The first compulsory attendance law was passed in 1918.)

"Mixed schools prohibited--White and colored children shall not be taught in the same school." Section 140.

Virginia Schools Laws, in the Code of Virginia, amplify the provisions of the State Constitution as follows:

Article 1, Section 22-221. "White and colored persons--White and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school, but shall be taught in separate schools, under the same general regulations as to management, usefulness and efficiency."

Under this section the following explanation is given, based on court decisions:

"Equal facilities must be afforded to each race where there is segregation in the public schools.

"Absolute equality is impractical, yet substantial equality is required by the mandate of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Questions of mere expediency or the difficulties which school authorities may have in securing that constitutional right may not be considered."

Article 4, Section 22-251. "Compulsory Attendance--Ages of children required to attend.--Every parent, guardian, or other person in the Commonwealth, having control or charge of any child, or children,

who have reached the seventh birthday and have not passed the sixteenth birthday, shall send such child, or children, to a public school, or to a private, denominational or parochial school, or have such child or children taught by a tutor or teacher of qualification prescribed by the State Board and approved by the division superintendent in a home, and such child, or children, shall regularly attend such school during the period of each year the public schools are in session and for the same number of days and hours per day as in the public schools."

Other Developments in Virginia

A poll of Virginia legislators, both delegates and senators, was taken during the summer and showed a strong desire to retain some form of segregated schools in Virginia.

On August 28th, Governor Stanley appointed a 32-member commission of the General Assembly to frame a state policy on the issue of school segregation. Two Arlington men, State Senator Charles Fenwick and Delegate Maynard Magruder, are members of this commission.

Announcement has now been made that the commission appointed by Governor Stanley will hold a public hearing on November 15th at the State Capitol at Richmond. At this hearing, spokesmen for local governing bodies will appear to present their points of view with regard to the matter of segregation and integration.

The Arlington County Board appointed County Manager A. T. Lundberg to attend the hearing as an observer, and at the same time referred to the county school board the invitation to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Campbell spoke for School Board